

Item Subject: SITREP AFT MAY 9

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)CONFIDENTIAL
DECL: OADRRWANDA/BURUNDI SITREP - AFTERNOON MAY 9

SITUATION ON THE GROUND

- o (LOU) UNAMIR Commander Dallaire met Saturday with the GOR defense minister and RPF Commander Kagame to discuss a possible ceasefire, but neither side seemed very serious. (May 7 AF-C/UNAMIR telcon)

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

- o (LOU) Canada today formally requested a special session of the UN Human Rights commission to consider Rwanda. Support from at least 27 of the 53 member states is required. If passed, a special session would have to be called by May 24. African nations had been reluctant to get out in front on the proposal. Those queried were pleased Canada had taken the initiative. (Geneva 04379)
- o (C) Burundi officials on May 6 met with A/S Shattuck. Burundi is grateful to the US for its support and guidance. Interim President Ntibantunganya has suggested to an RPF member that an international force is needed in Rwanda to mount a cease-fire and help stop massacres, but stressed to Shattuck that Burundians would prefer humanitarian involvement by the international community rather than any potential role that could cause a combat presence. (Bujumbura 01594).

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

- o (C) [redacted] criticised the idea of a peacekeeping force of only 5,000 - whose mandate would include protection of humanitarian aid - and said the ICRC could not accept protection of Red Cross-flagged convoys. He believed the French government can and should promote political dialogue, [redacted] A/S Shattuck responded with the consensus view that a large intervention force could not be more than a short-term solution, and might destabilize Burundi. (Geneva 04383)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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UNCLASSIFIED

BURUNDI

- o (C) Military in trucks and APC's early yesterday moved into communes south of Bujumbura; gunfire erupted, perhaps killing 20-50 people as hundreds of residents fled the shooting, according to local employees in Kanyosha. GOB sources said disarmament efforts were continuing outside Bujumbura and it was likely some soldiers had committed abuses. The president today met with crowds to assure them measures had been taken to prevent a repeat of the incident, primarily by ensuring that civilian officials accompany the military on these types of operations. In Bujumbura proper, life continues normally. (SITREP No. 18, Bujumbura 01611)